

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KATHMA 01142 040514Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
AID-05 COME-00 EB-08 FRB-03 TRSE-00 XMB-02
OPIC-03 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 /086 W
-----113258 040930Z /15

R 040445Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1259
INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY DACCA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KATHMANDU 1142

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRD, NP, IN, BG
SUBJECT: TRADE AND TRANSIT TREATIES INITIALLED

1. SEPARATE TREATIES ON TRADE AND TRANSIT WERE INITIALLED MARCH 2 BY GON FOREIGN SECRETARY BHATT AND GOI FOREIGN SECRETARY MEHTA. ALONG WITH THE TREATIES ONE PROTOCOL TO EACH TREATY WAS ALSO FINALIZED, AND A MEMORANDUM TO THE PROTOCOL ON THE TRANSIT TREATY WAS ALSO AGREED UPON. THE TWO SIDES ALSO AGREED ON AN AGREEMENT FOR THE CONTROL OF UNAUTHORIZED TRADE BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. THE TREATIES ARE TO BECOME OPERATIVE AFTER BEING SIGNED AT A MINISTERIAL MEETING WHICH IS EXPECTED TO TAKE PLACE IN NEW DELHI IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

2. AFTER THE INITIALLING CEREMONY, BOTH FOREIGN SECRETARIES TALKED BRIEFLY WITH NEWSMEN BUT DECLINED TO GIVE ANY DETAILS ON CONTENTS, SAYING THAT SUCH INFORMATION WOULD HAVE TO AWAIT THE FORMAL SIGNING. BHATT SAID "MUTUALLY AGREEABLE SOLUTIONS" HAD BEEN REACHED, AND THAT THE TALKS HAD BEEN "SATISFACTORY." MEHTA DESCRIBED THE TALKS AS HIGHLY COMPLEX AND COMPLICATED, BUT SAID THEY WERE HELD IN A CORDIAL ATMOSPHERE AND THAT THE
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PAGE 02 KATHMA 01142 040514Z

TREATIES WERE CONCLUDED IN THE SPIRIT OF THE "BASIC DECISIONS" REACHED BETWEEN PRIME MINISTERS BISTA AND DESAI DURING THE LATTER'S VISIT TO NEPAL. HE WAS ALSO REPORTED IN THE PRESS AS SAYING THAT THE USE OF AN OVERLAND INDIA ROUTE BY NEPAL TO AND FROM THE SEA THROUGH BANGLADESH WAS AGREED TO IN PRINCIPLE.

3. THE TRANSIT TREATY WILL BE VALID FOR SEVEN YEARS AND THE
TRADE TREATY FOR FIVE YEARS. THE AGREEMENT TO CONTROL
UNAUTHORIZED TRADE WILL ALSO BE VALID FOR FIVE YEARS.

4. COMMENT: WHILE WE DO NOT YET HAVE ALL DETAILS OF THE
AGREEMENTS, WE HAVE BEEN INFORMED THAT THE TALKS WERE PRO-
TRACTED AND THE NEGOTIATORS WORKED ALL THROUGH THE NIGHT PRIOR
TO THE INITIALLING. ONE NEPALESE SOURCE REPORTED THAT THE
INDIANS HAD BEEN "DIFFICULT." HOWEVER, THE INDIAN AGREEMENT
TO ALLOW TRANSIT THROUGH INDIAN TERRITORY TO BANGLADESH FOR
TRADE WITH OTHER COUNTRIES SEEMS AT FIRST GLANCE TO BE A
CONSIDERABLE GAIN--AT LEAST IN PRINCIPLE--FOR THE NEPALESE.
WE WILL BE FOLLOWING UP WITH GON OFFICIALS AND WILL REPORT
FURTHER.
HECK

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